

**Motor Vehicles for Hire  
Wednesday, June 17, 2015  
New Shoreham Town Hall, 16 Old Town Road  
9:00 a.m.**

**Present:** Commissioners Brad Marthens, Vincent McAloon, Connie LaRue and Geoffrey Lawrence; Patrick Evans arrived at 9:10 a.m.

Also present were Block Island Rescue Squad/Dispatch representative Bethanie Rousseau, Patrick Tengwall, *Block Island Times* representative Lars Trodson, and Assistant Town Clerk Bonny Ryan. MVFH Clerk Karen Cadow Le Roy was present to take minutes.

Commission Chair Brad Marthens called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**1. Public Input/Correspondence**

Patrick Tengwall asked if a driver could obtain a Town Chauffeur license without signing on with a taxi owner; in other words, get a license and hold it in reserve. The answer, according to Town ordinance, is no.

**2. Approval of minutes: May 19, 2015**

**Motion:** Ms. LaRue moved to approve the minutes of May 19, 2015; motion seconded by Mr. Lawrence.

Ayes: 4 (Marthens, McAloon, LaRue, Lawrence)      Nays: 0      Absent: 1 (Evans)

**3. Discuss and act on request from BI Rescue to address taxi drivers on handling of medical emergencies**

Ms. Rousseau addressed the Commissioners on the appropriate handling of medical emergencies. She recounted a recent weekend incident where a taxi driver phoned Dispatch to say he was taking a passenger with a diabetic condition to the Medical Center, which was closed. Despite clear instructions to bring the passenger instead to the Rescue Barn where two EMTs were on duty, the driver took the passenger to the closed Medical Center and left him there. The Commissioners were appalled. Ms. Rousseau has not yet revealed the name of the driver to the taxi owner. Discussion ensued.

- Suggestion to reveal the name, without judgment or malice, of the taxi owner and driver to use as an educational tool for the group of taxi owners and drivers
- Concern for public safety
- Commissioner Evans arrived and was briefed on the situation.

**Motion:** Mr. Marthens moved that Ms. Rousseau put together a memo to be distributed to all taxi owners and drivers as soon as possible. Discussion included 1) The Nurse Practitioner arrived at the Medical Center 5 to 8 minutes after Dispatch called her and was appalled; 2) the Chief was equally upset; 3) it could have resulted in a fatality if the patient had gone into a coma

or had a heart attack; 4) the patient's reaction to being left at the Medical Center was unknown; 5) the Commissioners thanked Ms. Rousseau for bringing this matter to their attention, 6) After Mr. Marthens initials the memo, Ms. Ryan and Ms. Le Roy will mail hard copies to all taxi owners to be distributed to their drivers, and also e-mail the memo to all owners and drivers who have provided their e-mail addresses.

The motion was not seconded and no vote was taken.

**Other business:** An application to be put on the Taxi wait list was received in the Town Clerk's office on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Unless there is need for an emergency meeting in July or August, the application will be addressed at the September meeting. Mr. Evans reported that the plan to move the Taxi sign in front of the National Hotel was delayed due to lack of proper tools, but they will be moving forward on that project.

**Motion:** With no further business, at 9:19 a.m. Mr. Marthens moved to adjourn the meeting,, seconded by Mr. McAloon.

Ayes: 5 (Marthens, McAloon, LaRue, Evans, Lawrence)      Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Cadow Le Roy  
Approved: